IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: ARIYASU=1A

In re Application of:) Conf. No.: 5549

Toshio ARIYASU et. al.) Art Unit: 1644

Appln. No.: 09/617,545) Examiner:

Date Filed or 102(e) date:

July 14, 2000) Washington, D.C.

For: HEDGEHOG PROTEIN) March 24, 2004

REQUEST FOR STATUS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 2011 South Clark Place Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of the Patent and Trademark Office, The applicants hereby make inquiry as to the status of the above-identified application.

As 37 CFR 1.2 states that the action of the PTO "will be based exclusively on the written record", applicant needs and therefore requests a <u>written reply</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

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